Violence in TV serials

†587. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the 124th report of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development, concern has been expressed on the trend of domestic violence being legalized due to increasing physical, psychological and verbal violence in the TV serials;

(b) if so, the steps Government are going to take to check the same; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The Committee recommended that Department of Women and Child Development should strictly monitor the depiction of women in print as well as visual media and whenever a woman is being portayed objectionably, it should immediately take up the matter with the appropriate authorities/departments.

(b) and (c) The Programme Code appliable for all TV programmes transmitted or re-transmitted through Cable service provides that no programme should be carried in the Cable Service which denigrates women through the depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to women, or is likely to deprave, corrupt or injure the public morality or morals. The Cable Television Networks (Regulation) ACt, 1995 provides that any "authorised officer" notified under the Act may prohibit any Cable Operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or Channel if it is not in conformity with the Programme Code. Further under section 20 of the aforesaid Act, Central Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising officers from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Defence, Law, External Affairs and Home Affairs to look into violations of Programme Code, either *suo-moto* or on receipt of a specific complaint.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.